PB86-172558

Superfund Record of Decision (EPA Region 5)
Forest Waste Disposal Site
Genesee County, Michigan (Action Memorandum for
Initial Remedial Measure), February 1984

(U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

29 Feb 84

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
NTIS.

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of
Emergency and
Remedial Response

EPA/ROD/R05-84/028
February 1984

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EPA

Superfund Record of Decision:

Forest Waste, MI (IRM)

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12. SPONSORING AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460		13. TYPE OF REPORT AND PERIOD COVERED Final ROD Report 14. SPONSORING AGENCY CODE 800/00
15. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		

16. ABSTRACT

Forest Waste Disposal is located on a 112-acre tract of land, in a rural, residential area in the southeast quarter of Forest Township, Genesee County, Michigan. This location is approximately 12 miles northeast of Flint, and approximately 2 miles northwest of the city of Otisville. Forest Waste Disposal is a closed, 15-acre landfill which was licensed from 1972 to 1978 to accept general refuse and industrial wastes. During the course of operations, the facility accepted a variety of industrial wastes, including plating wastes, paint sludges, and waste oils. The facility also accepted PBB and PCB-contaminated wastes, refuse from a chemical warehouse fire, and unidentified barrels from Berlin and Farro hazardous waste site in Swartz Creek, Michigan. Although the landfill was permitted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to accept most of these wastes, the facility was run in a haphazard manner. County Health Department records on the site state that trenches were dug randomly, industrial wastes were buried with general refuse, and liquid wastes were discharged into the landfill and onto the ground throughout the landfill's operation.

The initial remedial measure for this site will consist of a fence surrounding the portions of the site which present an imminent hazard to public health from direct contact with hazardous materials. Approximately 100 acres will be fenced. An RI/FS will be conducted to characterize and to determine the extent of onsite and offsite

17. KEY WORDS AND DOCUMENT ANALYSIS		
a. DESCRIPTORS	b. IDENTIFIERS/OPEN ENDED TERMS	c. COSATI Field/Group
Record of Decision Forest Waste, MI (IRM) Contaminated media: soil Key contaminants: oils, PCBs, sludge		
18. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT	19. SECURITY CLASS *(This Report)* NONE	21. NO. OF PAGES 7
	20. SECURITY CLASS *(This page)* NONE	22. PRICE

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ABSTRACT Continued

contamination, and develop cost-effective alternatives for source control and/or offsite remedial action. Total capital cost for this initial remedial measure is estimated to be $100,000.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: FEB 2 9 1984

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: Authorization to Proceed with an Initial Remedial Measure (IRM) at the Forest Waste Disposal Site, Genesee County, Michigan

FROM: Basil G. Constantelos, Director
Waste Management Division

TO: Valdas V. Adamkus
Regional Administrator

Purpose

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to request authorization to conduct an initial remedial measure at the Forest Waste Disposal site in Forest Township, Michigan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) supports the proposed activities, and has agreed to provide the ten percent match as required for the cost of this project. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) will be the lead agency for this project.

Background

This site is on the National Priorities List dated August 1983. Forest Waste Disposal is located in a rural, residential area in the southeast quarter of Forest Township, Genesee County, Michigan. This location is approximately 12 miles northeast of Flint, and approximately 2 miles northwest of the city of Otisville.

Forest Waste Disposal is a closed, 15-acre landfill which was licensed from 1972 to 1978 to accept general refuse and industrial wastes, although a total of 112 acres belong to the owner. The landfill is fairly well covered, although refuse and about 200 rusty drums are exposed in some places. There are also nine surface impoundments on site, three still holding liquid. In addition to waste disposal, the site was also used as an airport named "Rixport." Structural features on the site include an office building, airport hanger, an empty trailer, as well as a concrete runway and a grass runway.

During the course of operation of the landfill, the facility accepted a variety of industrial wastes, including plating wastes, paint sludges, and waste oils. The facility also accepted PBB and PCB-contaminated wastes, refuse from a chemical warehouse fire, and unidentified barrels from Berlin and Farro hazardous waste site in Swartz Creek, Michigan. Although the landfill was permitted by DNR to accept most of these wastes, the facility was run in a haphazard manner and was charged with several violations by the Genesee County Health Department during its operation. County Health Department records on the site state that trenches were dug randomly, industrial wastes were buried with general refuse, and liquid wastes were discharged into the landfill and onto the ground throughout the landfill's operation.

U.S. EPA Region V has requested that Headquarters authorize $500,000 to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study at this site. This study will characterize and determine the extent of on-site and off-site contamination, and develop cost-effective alternatives for source control and/or off-site remedial action in accordance with Section 300.68 of the National Contingency Plan. Region V expects the remedial investigation to begin in March 1984.

Region V's Emergency Response Section recently investigated the site to determine if immediate removal action was necessary as a result of the potential for people to come in direct contact with hazardous materials on the site's surface. The Emergency Response Section recommended that warning signs and a gate across the access road be put up immediately to restrict access to the site, and that the Remedial Response Section I consider fencing the site as part of the planned RI/FS activities. In December 1983, U.S. EPA negotiated voluntary implementation of these emergency measures.

Region V's Remedial Response Branch and the State of Michigan believe that fencing a portion of the site is necessary to fully secure the site and prevent direct contact with the nine surface impoundments, an estimated 200 partially exposed drums, and areas of suspected soil contamination.

Community Relations

Around 1974 - 1978, the Genesee County Health Department received several complaints about odors at the site. In 1978, citizens became concerned about PBBs that were buried at the site and several articles appeared in the Flint Journal on this issue. Citizen concern appears to have diminished after 19 residential wells tested for PBBs showed no contamination.

A Community Relations Plan is being prepared by U.S. EPA. The objectives of this plan are to establish effective two-way communication among citizens, local officials, state officials, and EPA remedial action teams during the course of the initial remedial measure.

The State of Michigan has set up a citizen information committee for this site. U.S. EPA Region V will be working with this committee to disseminate information to the community on U.S. EPA's activities at the site, and to receive citizen's comments and questions on these activities.

In January 1984, U.S. EPA Region V placed a notice in a local newspaper to describe the IRM proposal and to announce a 2-week public comment period on the proposal. Region V's response to the public comments is described in the attached Responsiveness Summary. Three of the four comments received supported EPA's proposal. One commentor suggested that EPA remove the wastes immediately instead of spending resources on a fence at this time.

Enforcement

See attachment

Proposed Project

The initial remedial measure will consist of a fence surrounding the portions of the site which present an imminent hazard to public health from direct contact with hazardous materials. Approximately 100 acres will be fenced. The currently approved Region V Remedial Accomplishments Plan (RAP) provides for $100,000 for IRM activities at this site.

The attached Scope of Work describes the specific components of the initial remedial measure.

Estimated Project Cost and Schedule

	Estimated Cost	Duration
Fence Construction	$100,000	1 month

The State of Michigan supports this project and is aware of its ten percent cost share obligation for construction activities at the site. A letter from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is attached.

Project Officer

To oversee this effort, I have designated Francine Pollack, On-Scene Coordinator, as the Regional Site Project Officer for this effort. She can be reached at FTS 886-6337.

Recommendation

This request has been coordinated with the appropriate Headquarters and Regional offices. I recommend that you authorize the initial remedial measure for the Forest Waste Disposal site. Following your approval, this package will be submitted to Headquarters with a request that appropriate funds be obligated.

I am available to discuss this request in more detail at your convenience.

APPROVE Valdas V. Adamkus

DISAPPROVE _____

DATE 2/28/84

Valdas V. Adamkus

Valdas V. Adamkus

Attachments